

*AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION*

Please add the following paragraph on page 1 of the specification, after the title of the invention:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

The present application claims priority on PCT International Application No. PCT/JP2005/005452 filed March 17, 2005, which in turn claims priority on Japanese Application Nos. 2004-078521 filed March 18, 2004; 2004-12676 filed April 22, 2004; and 2004-287677 filed September 30, 2007. The contents of each of these applications are hereby incorporated in by reference.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 27, as follows:

The experiment was carried out on the four groups, such as the groups treated with D-ribose at doses of 30 mg/kg, 100 mg/kg, 300 mg/kg, and the control group. The animals were grouped based on the body weights which had been previously measured prior to the experiment so that the average body weight of each group becomes equal. D-ribose was dissolved in distilled water and administered orally at 10 ml/kg once a day and repeatedly for one week in mice. To the control group, distilled water was administered orally instead of aqueous D-ribose solution. The forced swimming test was a modification of the method of Porsolt et al. (cf., Nature, [[166,]] 266, p. 730-732 (1977)). Briefly, the animals were forced to swim twice, i.e., for 15 minutes prior to the treatment of a test compound or distilled water on the day before the final administration, and further for 5 minutes one hour after the final administration on the

following day. That is, the mice were forced to swim in a clear polycarbonate-made measuring cylinder (internal diameter: 10 cm, height: 25 cm) containing water up to a height of 10 cm at a temperature of 25°C, and the duration of the immobility during the second swimming was recorded.